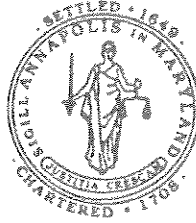


City of



Annapolis

**BOARD OF PORT WARDENS**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PORT WARDENS  
2010**

The authority of the Board of Port Wardens is established by City Code, Title 15, "The Harbor Master and Harbors and Waterfront Areas": "The Port Wardens shall regulate the placement, erection and construction of structures and other barriers within or on the waters of the city..." (15.16.020). Applications for marine construction are reviewed by staff for regulatory compliance and placed on a hearing agenda for the Board's review. Public hearings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month if there are applications. Primary staff support is provided by the Chief of Environmental Programs, Dept. of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs with assistance by the acting Harbormaster.

There are five port wardens, reappointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council on September 14, 2009 for three year terms. The board members are: Gene Godley, Chair; Larry Littig; Willie Sampson; Randall Adams; and Robert Hantske. In 2010, there were six public hearings and a total of sixteen applications reviewed by the Board – fourteen residential properties, one commercial property, and one yacht club. The Board also reviewed enforcement actions taken by the Harbormaster, annual mooring applications and court actions related to their decisions. Applications in 2010 were twenty per cent fewer than the 2009 total, reflecting the continuing downturn in the economy. Of the six hearings, attendance was: Mr. Godley, six; Mr. Littig, six; Mr. Sampson, four; Mr. Adams, six, Mr. Hantske, four.

In August, the Board and City and MD DNR staff toured the Annapolis waterfront by boat with an environmental consultant to become better acquainted with the construction technique of living shorelines, which have been designated by the State as the priority method of protecting the shore as opposed to bulkheads and rip rap.

City Code Title 15 was adopted by the City Council in February, 1980 and has been amended several times over the years, most notably in 2002 with the addition of Divisions I and II which define the role and authority of the Office of the Harbormaster. Division III, which defines marine construction regulations and the authority of the Port Wardens, has become outdated in many respects, in particular regarding consistency with local, state and federal regulations and practices adopted since 1980. These inconsistencies often conflict with staff and board review. The Board recommends that Division III be rewritten with the legal scrutiny that it requires.